

HEALTH  
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*St. Ives*

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BOROUGH OF ST. IVES (HUNTS)

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR 1956

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The Ridley Press, Cambridge and St. Ives.



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**of the Borough of Saint Ives (Hunts) for the year ending**  
**31st Dec, 1956**

To:—

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of St. Ives (Hunts) .

Your Worship, and Members of the Council,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough for the year 1956.

The Birth Rate while showing an appreciable decrease as compared with last year, still remains above the figure for England and Wales - a feature which has existed consistently since 1951.

The Death Rate, on the other hand, shows a fractional rise compared with 1955 and now stands just above the national figure. It is satisfactory to note that of the 40 deaths which occurred, only one was under 1yr of age.

As in recent years by far the greatest number of deaths in the Borough are attributable to disease of the heart or blood vessels and during the year four times as many citizens died from cardio-vascular conditions as from any other cause. There were no deaths from lung cancer.

Infectious Disease again ran at a fairly low level, measles and whooping cough heading the list in that order.

In accordance with Ministry of Health instructions registration for Vaccination against Poliomyelitis was opened for children born between 1947 and 1954 inclusive. In May vaccination commenced for a limited number of children in certain age groups selected by the Ministry, but it was suspended during the Summer months till November when it recommenced. It is anticipated that immunisation will give us a substantial measure of control in this crippling disease.

The provision of a proper sewerage and sewage disposal scheme still remains an urgent matter.

The Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board have maintained a good and wholesome supply of water during the 12 months.

In conclusion I should like to thank Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration to me, and to their Officers for all the help which they have given me during another year.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

J. CALDWELL.

Medical Officer of Health.

# PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

HEALTH INSPECTOR—

G. G. YEANDLE, M.R.S.H.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	2,326 acres
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£54,661.
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£213.
Number of inhabited houses (approx.)	...	...	...	...	...	1,147
Population	...	...	...	...	...	3,360

## VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	32	21	53	Birth-rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	—	2	2	estimated population 16.4
	—	—	—	(Ditto for England
Total	32	23	55	and Wales) ... 15.7
	—	—	—	

### STILL BIRTHS

—	—	—	Birth-rate per 1,000
			(live and still) Births —
			(Ditto for England
			and Wales) ... 23.0

### DEATHS

(all ages)	17	23	40	Death-rate per 1,000
				estimated population 11.9
				(Ditto for England
				and Wales) ... 11.7

### Deaths of Infants under 1 year

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	M.	F.	Total
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
					—	—	—

### Death-rates of Infants under 1 year

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	18.2
(Ditto for England and Wales)	...	...	...	23.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	18.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	—



# CAUSES OF DEATHS

(Registrar General's List)

List No.	Causes	M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other ... ..	0	0
3	Syphilitic ... ..	0	0
4	Diphtheria ... ..	0	0
5	Whooping Cough ... ..	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections ... ..	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	0	0
8	Measles ... ..	0	0
9	Other infective and parasite diseases ... ..	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	1	0
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	0	0
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	0	0
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	0	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	2	2
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	0	0
16	Diabetes ... ..	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system ... ..	2	6
18	Coronary disease, angina ... ..	2	2
19	Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	0	1
20	Other heart disease ... ..	1	6
21	Other circulatory disease ... ..	3	1
22	Influenza ... ..	0	0
23	Pneumonia ... ..	0	1
24	Bronchitis ... ..	2	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	0	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	0	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea ... ..	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	1	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	0	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	0	0
31	Congenital malformations ... ..	1	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	1	2
33	Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	1	0
34	All other accidents ... ..	0	0
35	Suicide ... ..	0	0
36	Homicide and operations of war ... ..	0	0
Total all causes ...		17	23

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### (a) Laboratory Facilities

The following laboratory facilities have been available in this authority and to General Practitioners in the area:—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst, S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C., Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 2097.

### (b) Ambulance Services

- (i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders. Tel.: Huntingdon 348.

### (c) Home Nursing

A nurse-midwife resident in St. Ives (Tel.: St. Ives 2228), employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council, carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity Cases in the Borough.

### (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

- (i) The following Health Services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic, Station Approach, St Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m.	Ditto.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren. Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	3rd Friday in month. 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2-3.30 p.m.  Every Wednesday (except 2nd in month) and every Saturday. 10 a.m.-12 noon. (By appointment.)	Ditto.  Dental Clinic, Princes Street, Huntingdon.

(ii) The following Health Services are now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, but are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10.00 a.m.-12 noon. 2-4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Orthopaedic	Ditto.	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month (Surgeons by appointment). 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Ditto.

(iii) The following Health Services are now provided by the Regional Hospital Board:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Mondays, 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays, 4-6.30 p.m.  Males: Mondays, 5.30-7 p.m. Wednesdays, 5.30-7 p.m. Females: Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon Thursdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.  Out-Patients Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients' Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

#### (e) Hospital Services.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946 all hospitals in the area came under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

**Fever.** As from May 1955 facilities for the investigation and treatment of infectious diseases are provided by the Isolation Hospitals at Ely, Cambridge and Peterborough.

**General Hospital Services** are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

**Maternity Cases** are admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon.



## SANITARY CONDITIONS

1 (1) **Water.**—The Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board whose main works are situated at Kingston in Cambridgeshire supply water in bulk to the Borough. A satisfactory pressure has been maintained throughout the year. The total consumption for the year was 42,839,000 gallons which is a decrease of 2,877,000 on the previous year.

The water is chlorinated at source by the Board.

77 Samples were taken at various points in the Borough during the year, all of which were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, for examination and report. Of these three were found to be unsatisfactory and were traced to faulty taps and corrected.

The rainfall for the year was 24.40 inches, which is about the average for the district and 5.80 inches above the previous year.

### WATER SUPPLIES

Name of Town,	Source of Supply:— Public Supply, Wells, etc.	Sufficiency or Otherwise	Quality of Water	Analysis of Individual Supplies:— Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory, or none
St. Ives	Purchased in bulk from Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.	74 analyses were satisfactory from the Public supply. 3 were unsatisfactory and were corrected.

Number of such Analyses 74	Estimated Number of Dwellings Supplied			Estimated Population Supplied		
	Direct from Main Supply: 1,111	By Stand-pipes: 26	By Public or Private Wells: 10	Direct from Main Supply: 3,255	By Stand-pipes: 76	By Public or Private Wells: 29

(2) **Drainage and Sewage.**—Apart from general maintenance, no works in connection with drainage and sewerage have been carried out. The provision of an entirely new sewerage scheme has once again been under consideration and the need for this is still an urgent matter. It is hoped that during the coming year progress will be made and a committee has been appointed to re-consider the scheme.



**2 Rivers and Streams.**—No works of importance were carried out during the year. The ditches which discharge into the River Ouse have been kept clear and no doubt this has assisted in preventing any serious flooding in the area.

**3 (1) Closet accomodation.**—The collection and disposal of night soil has been carried out by the St. Ives Rural District Council's vehicles under contract and the scheme has worked satisfactorily. No complaints were received during the year. All properties within the limits of the existing sewerage system have been connected to same.

**(2) Public Cleansing.**—The St. Ives Rural District Council has, under contract, been responsible for the collection and disposal of house refuse including the provision of all labour to carry out the work. No complaints were received during the year and it has still been possible to cover the area by a one day's collection although the volume of refuse continues to increase.

**4 Shops and Offices.**—No infringements were found and no complaints received during the year.

**5 Camping Sites.**—No applications were received for the licensing of camping sites in the Borough area during the year and no licenses have been granted previously.

**6 Smoke Abatement.** — One complaint was received during the year and was abated by informal action.

**7 Eradication of Bed Bugs.**—No complaints of infestation were received during the year, and no premises were found to be infested.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

**(a) Milk Supply.**—The majority of the milk which is retailed in the Borough and delivered in bottles is mainly produced in the area of the St. Ives Rural District. No complaints were received during the year.

**(b) Meat.**—The Borough Slaughterhouse, the management of which by agreement with the Council, is in the control of a local Estate Agent, has continued to work satisfactorily. The examination of meat has been carried out by an officer appointed by the Council.

## MEAT INSPECTION

### Public Abbatoir.

			Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	..	..	1079	18	863	3108	—
Number inspected	..	..	1079	18	863	3108	—
(All diseases except tuberculosis):—							
Whole ca cases condemned	..		—	—	1	—	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	..		116	—	29	45	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	..	..	10.8%	—	3.4%	1.4%	
(Tuberculosis only):—							
Whole carcasses condemned	..		3	—	—	1	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	..		58	—	—	14	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	..	..	5.6%	—	—	0.5%	
Cysticercosis:—							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	..		4	—	—	—	
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	..		4	—	—	—	
Generalised and totally con- demned	..	..	—	—	—	—	

### Weights of Condemned Meat.

				Condemnations				
				Number killed	Number of whole carcasses	Weight of whole carcasses	Weight of Parts and Organs	Total Weight
Cattle	..	..	1079	3	2455 lb.	5188 lb.	7643 lb.	
Calves	..	..	18	—	—	—	— lb.	
Sheep and Lambs	..		863	1	49 lb.	56 lb.	105 lb.	
Pigs	..	..	3108	1	142 lb.	439 lb.	581 lb.	
Total			..	5068	5	2646 lb.	5683 lb.	8329 lb.

Total animals killed: 5,068.

Total meat condemned: 3 tons 14 cwts. 1 qrt. 13 lbs.

(c) **Bakehouse.**—There are still two registered bake-houses in the Borough, both of which have been maintained in a satisfactory manner during the year.

## FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

## INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	9	27	Nil	Nil
(2) Section 7	43	51	Nil	Nil
Total	52	78	Nil	Nil

Defect	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	1	1	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—

## HOUSING

### 1 Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :-

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... .. 164
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 187
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... 9
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 11
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 0
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 8



**2 Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	6
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**3 Action under statutory powers during the year:-**

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-			
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs			0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-			0
(a) By owners	...		0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners			0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-			
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		...	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-			
(a) By owners	...		2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners			0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-			
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...		0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	...		0
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-			
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made.	...		0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	...		0

**4 Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:-**

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	...	0
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- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 0  
 (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 0  
 (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 0  
 (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 0  
 (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 0  
 (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... 0

The Council is proceeding with a scheme for the erection of 20 council houses.

Number of new houses erected and number of new dwellings provided by adaptation during 1956:—

New Houses by		By Adaptation	
Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Local Authority	Private Enterprise
2	5	None	None

### TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1956 23

Pulmonary: 20

Non-Pulmonary: 3

AGE PERIODS				New Cases—Diagnosed				New Cases—Transfers			
				Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

## CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

							Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							48

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:—

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary Immunisation	31	23	-	-	9	2	-	65
Secondary or Rein- forcing Injection	-	-	-	-	2	77	14	93

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the District of children up to the age of 15 years:—

Age at 31.12.56 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1956	1-4 1955-1952	5-9 1951-1947	10-14 1946-1942	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of in- jections (whether primary or booster).					
A. 1952-1956	4	192	182	86	464
B. 1951 or earlier	-	-	86	202	288





